

Serial No.: 09/964,515

REMARKS

In order to expedite prosecution, each of the rejected independent claims has been amended, without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter embodied thereby, to incorporate what the Examiner has indicated as allowable subject matter from claim 8 at the bottom of page 9 of the outstanding Office Action. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that all claims are now in condition for allowance (the enclosed amendment also obviates the alleged objection to claim 4).

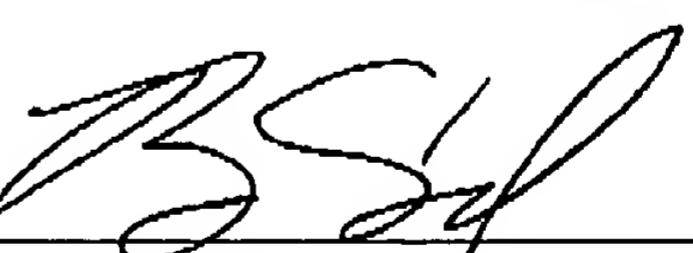
Having fully responded to all matters raised in the Office Action, Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance, an indication for which is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

McDERMOTT, WILL & EMERY

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Date: March 20, 2006

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